

Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club Press Release – 23rd October 2008

Titans Make Waves at National Speedo League Gala.

“First I heard a tremor... then I felt a huge breaking wave descending upon me”. Those were the words of one swimmer at the end of the last leg of the Open freestyle relay – the final event of Round 1 of this year’s National Speedo League competition - as former British Olympian Darren Mew – now representing the Ellesmere College Titans – all guns blazing - descended upon him to win.

Commenting upon winning this freestyle relay Darren Mew said “This final event encapsulated the fantastic team spirit that was shown throughout this gala by all of the Titan swimmers and supporters. The Titans young swimmers have a never say die attitude and their positive mental attitude is infectious”.

With a team of just 15 swimmers – many having to swim up a full two age groups and compete in up to 8 events - the Titans arrived at the brand new Leigh Sports Village complex near Wigan last Saturday ready to do battle at the Club’s first ever team gala fixture.

By the end of the evening they had swum their way into overall third position behind Bolton and Northwich but in front of Garston, Lancaster and Ellesmere Port.

The final team points were as follows:

Bolton	185
Northwich	163
Ellesmere College Titans	143
Garston	138
Lancaster	126
Ellesmere Port	85

Inspired by Darren Mew’s gigantic Olympic presence Titan swimmers swam their way to 16 Personal Best times and 8 First Places.

Darren Mew won the 100m breaststroke event in a time which was just a few seconds off world record pace; and Alfie Pardoe, aged 10, swam the 100m backstroke in 1:18.45, a fraction of a second off the current British Age Group Number 1 ranking time.

Head Coach Jon Pardoe said “the night was not really about individual performances. Instead it was a demonstration of team spirit, sheer grit and determination and above all what can be achieved against the odds when there is a collective desire to go for it and the sights are set high. Against big city clubs, founded decades of years ago, with hundreds of swimmers to select from – the Titans definitely did both Ellesmere College and the town of Ellesmere proud”.

So congratulations to Jamie Thomas, Alfie Pardoe, Kate Parry, Otilie Fairhurst, Hannah Greene, Elliot Hughes, Courtney Pickstone, David Main, Lauren Bond, Daniel Howell, Annie Mellings, Helena Kocourkova, Raphaella Ring, Annie Jones and of course Darren Mew.

The Titans now move onto Round 2 on November 8th.

Further details about joining the Ellesmere Titans can be found on their website www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk or by telephoning Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668. Further details on scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com.

Notes to Editor

The Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club was established in 2008, as a meeting of minds, between Ellesmere College – a school with a great sporting heritage and the parents of some of the top young swimmers in Shropshire, united in their desire to create an ambitious, positive and competitive swimming club.

The result: A centre of swimming excellence in the heart of the North Shropshire countryside.

To maintain this standard the Club adopts and implements a selective membership policy, to ensure that all swimmers share the same goal of achieving swimming success at the highest level. The emphasis is on quality not quantity of swimmers, with the Club limiting its total swimming membership to 28 - ranging from children as young as 8 upwards.

In such an environment a great deal of one to one coaching can be given to individual swimmers, and productive use can be made of underwater video analysis and specialist training equipment. Ellesmere College was founded in 1884 and is part of the Woodard Group – the largest grouping of public schools in the UK. Over the years it has been responsible for producing some of the British sporting greats including ex-England Rugby captain Bill Beaumont. It is hoped that it will produce the next generation of British swimming greats.

Photos: 1)0026 = Titan Swimmers with Darren Mew
2) 0032 = Darren Mew & Titan Team Members.

Issued on behalf of Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club (The Titans). For further details please contact Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668 or email jonpardoe@hotmail.co.uk. Further details on scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com

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